Fixing the number of BPL families for States

*33. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA:

DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Centre has fixed the number of Below Poverty Line (BPL) households for States and told them not to exceed this limit while conducting the census to identify such families;

(b) if so, whether Government are aware that with several States reeling under severe drought, the BPL figures have soared and the Centre's move is bound to keep several families out of the list of beneficiaries;

(c) whether some Chief Ministers have written to Centre in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The BPL Census is to identify the rural poor for targeting them under the normal programmes of the Ministry of Rural Development. The drought and other natural calamities are to be addressed separately.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Governments of Rajasthan and Kerala have requested the Union Government to relax the ceiling fixed for BPL households.

Dual citizenship to NRIs residing in Gulf countries

*34. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to offer dual citizenship to the People of Indian Origin who have settled abroad;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Government are thinking not to offer dual citizenship to some of the NRIs residing in some of the Gulf countries;

(c) if so. the details of the countries which have been barred from this offer; and